

On page 1, line 2, please insert the following before

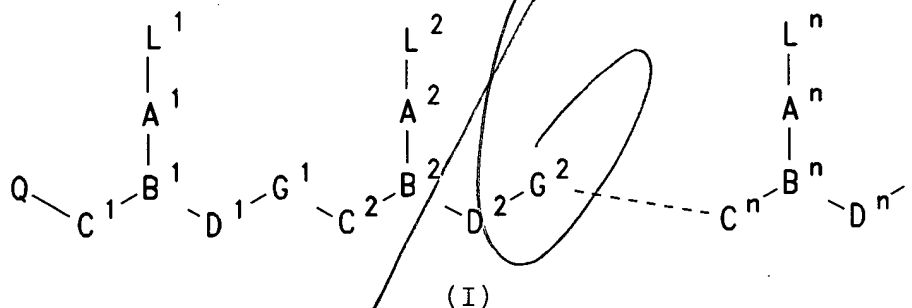
"FIELD OF THE INVENTION": --This patent application is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/595,387, filed February 1, 1996 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,773,571), which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/054,363, filed April 26, 1993 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,539,082).--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 22, add claim 25 in its place, and rewrite claims 12-14, 23, and 24, as indicated below:

In the first lines of each of claims 12-14, 23, and 24, please delete "claim 22" and insert therefor --claim 25--.

--25. A nucleic acid mimic in admixture with at least one target molecule selected from the group consisting of nucleic acids, transcription factors, carbohydrates and proteins, said mimic having formula (I):



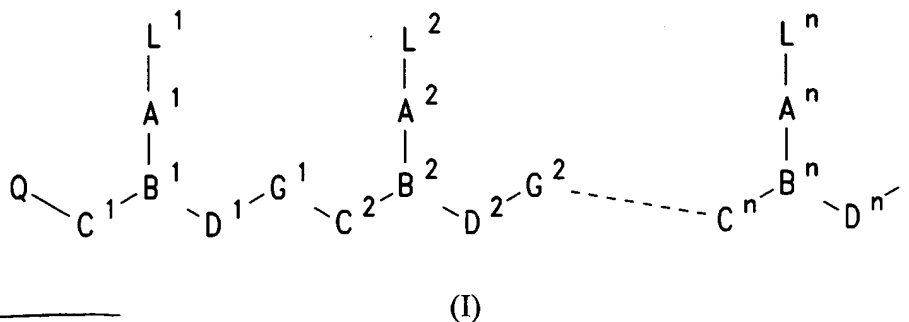
wherein:

In ~~claim~~ 14, line 1, please delete "claim 25" and insert --claim 26-- therefor.

In ~~claim~~ 23, line 1, please delete "claim 25" and insert --claim 26-- therefor.

In ~~claim~~ 24, line 1, please delete "claim 25" and insert --claim 26-- therefor.

~~26.~~ A nucleic acid mimic in admixture with at least one target molecule selected from the group consisting of nucleic acids, transcription factors, carbohydrates and proteins, said mimic having formula (I):



wherein:

n is at least 2,

each of  $L^1-L^n$  is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy,  $(C_1-C_4)$ alkanoyl, naturally occurring nucleobases, non-naturally occurring nucleobases, aromatic moieties, DNA intercalators, nucleobase-binding groups, heterocyclic moieties, and reporter ligands, at least one of  $L^1-L^n$  being said base substituted with at least one sterically bulky substituent;

each of  $C^1-C^n$  is  $(CR^6R^7)_y$  where  $R^6$  is hydrogen and  $R^7$  is selected from the group consisting of the side chains of naturally occurring alpha amino acids, or  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are independently

selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylthio, NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup> and SR<sup>5</sup>, where R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> independently are hydrogen, a conjugate, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio or amino; and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, or alkylthio-substituted (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, or R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> taken together complete an alicyclic or heterocyclic system;

each of D<sup>1</sup>-D<sup>n</sup> is (CR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>)<sub>z</sub> where R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are as defined above;

each of y and z is zero or an integer from 1 to 10, the sum y + z being greater than 2 but not more than 10;

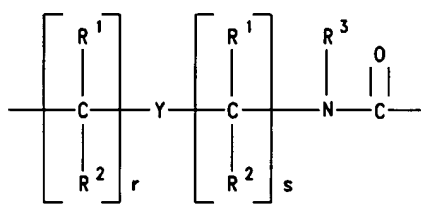
each of G<sup>1</sup>-G<sup>n-1</sup> is -NR<sup>3</sup>CO-, -NR<sup>3</sup>CS-, -NR<sup>3</sup>SO- or -NR<sup>3</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>-, in either orientation,

where R<sup>3</sup> is as defined above;

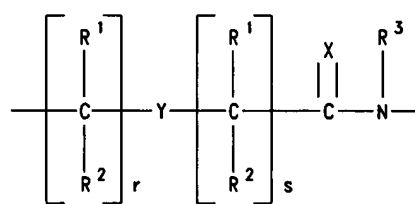
each pair of A<sup>1</sup>-A<sup>n</sup> and B<sup>1</sup>-B<sup>n</sup> are selected such that:

(a) A is a group of formula (IIc) and B is N or R<sup>3</sup>N<sup>+</sup>; or

(b) A is a group of formula (IId) and B is CH;



(IIc)



(IId)

where:

X is O, S, Se, NR<sup>3</sup>, CH<sub>2</sub> or C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>;

Y is a single bond, O, S or NR<sup>4</sup>;

each of p and q is zero or an integer from 1 to 5;